



RIDDLE OF THE SPHINX!

27
MAY '09

BATMAN

CONFIDENTIAL



GARCIA LOPEZ - KNI

DB

DeFILIPPIS & WEIR
GARCIA-LOPEZ
NOWLAN

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02711





WHEET WHEET WHEET WHEET



WHEET WHEET WHEET WHEET







...WERE
YOU REALLY
BURIED WITH A
DONKEY?

NOT
TO WORRY.
MISS CARSON, THE
RIDDLER IS HERE
TO PROTECT
YOU.

YOU HAVE
GOT TO BE
KIDDING
ME.

A NEW DAWN

Part Two

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YOU DARE
MOCK THE
MESSENGER
OF ATEN?



YOU,
OF ALL
PEOPLE?



RIDDLER!

GET
AWAY FROM
CARSON!

HOOFK



UH,
BATMAN...

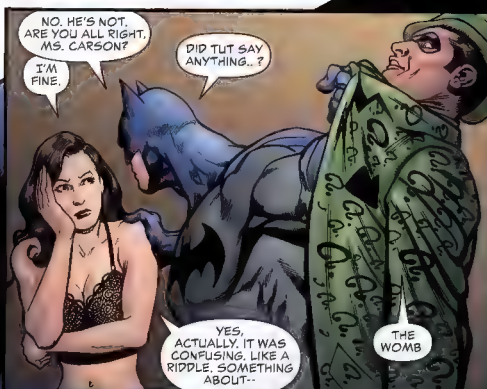
...I'M NOT
THE THREAT
HERE.

NOT THE
ONLY ONE,
ANYWAY.















HERE?



YES, HERE. WHERE A HUNDRED COPS CAN KEEP AN EYE ON YOU.



DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HE'S ANY HAPPER ABOUT THIS THAN I AM.

HEY, AREN'T THEY SUPPOSED TO HAVE DOUGHNUTS AROUND HERE?

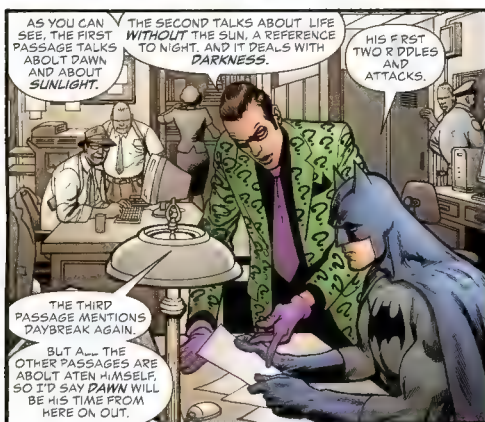
...DOES HE EVEN ASK ME BEFORE BRINGING A KNOWN FELON IN HERE AS A CONSULTANT? NO!



FOCUS. LET'S TALK ABOUT THE HYMN.

IT WAS A PRAYER TO ATEN, THE SUN GOD.

HE BRIEFLY REPLACED THE EGYPTIAN PANTHEON OF GODS JUST BEFORE TUT'S REIGN.



AS YOU CAN SEE, THE FIRST PASSAGE TALKS ABOUT DAWN AND ABOUT SUNLIGHT.

THE SECOND TALKS ABOUT LIFE WITHOUT THE SUN, A REFERENCE TO NIGHT. AND IT DEALS WITH DARKNESS.

HIS FIRST TWO RIDDLES AND ATTACKS.

THE THIRD PASSAGE MENTIONS DAYBREAK AGAIN.

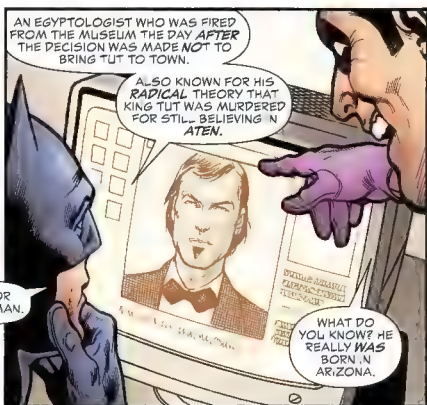
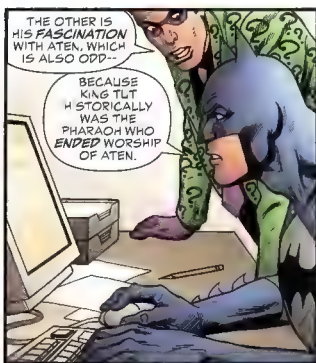
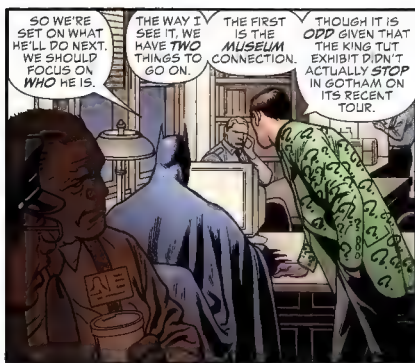
BUT A... THE OTHER PASSAGES ARE ABOUT ATEN HIMSELF, SO I'D SAY DAWN WILL BE HIS TIME FROM HERE ON OUT.

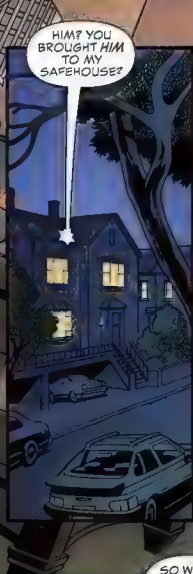


GIVEN THE PATHOLOGICAL NATURE OF CRIMINALS LIKE HIM--

OKAY, LIKE US.

--I'D SAY HE'LL KEEP GOING AFTER THE CARSON LADY AND TRY TO BURY HER ALIVE.





HIM? YOU BROUGHT HIM TO MY SAFEHOUSE?



MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT MY DICTIONARY SO YOU COULD LOOK UP THE WORD "SAFE."

THE RIDDLER STAYS WITH ME SO I CAN KEEP AN EYE ON HIM. I GUARANTEE YOU THAT HE WON'T LEAVE MY SIGHT.

GREAT. THE GUARANTEE OF A MASKED MAN. WHAT'S THAT WORTH?



SO WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU NEED FROM ME?

WE WANTED TO ASK ABOUT--



THE MUSEUM WAS ALMOST COMPLETELY BROKE. DID YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT?



NO. SHOULD I HAVE?

THE OPERATING BUDGET HAD BEEN SHIFTED TO ACQUISITIONS A FEW DAYS AGO. FROM THERE, IT JUST... VANISHED.

MAYBE IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE LUNATIC TRYING TO KILL ME?



MAYBE. BUT THAT LUNATIC WOULD NEED ACCESS.

EXCUSE ME... PARTNER? WE'RE MISSING THE REASON WE CAME HERE.

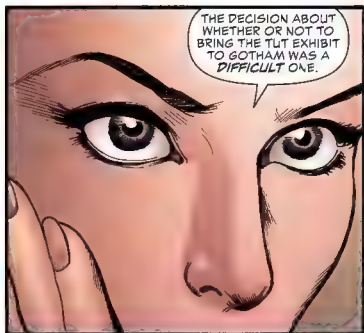
AND THAT IS?



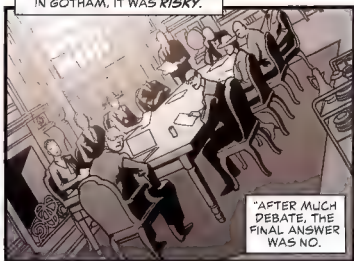
TELL US ABOUT DR. VICTOR GOODMAN

VICTOR? YOU THINK VICTOR?

OF COURSE.

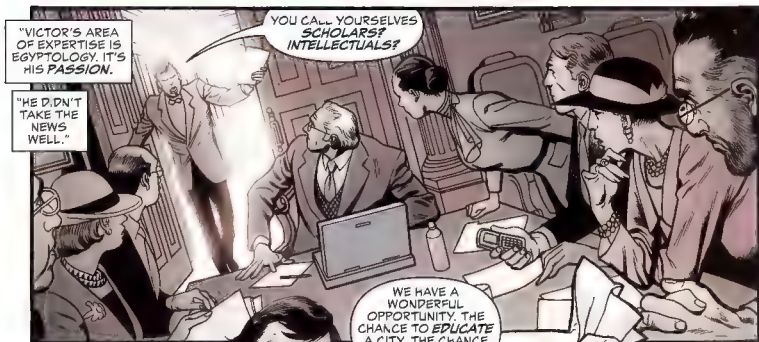


THE DECISION ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT TO BRING THE TLT EXHIBIT TO GOTHAM WAS A DIFFICULT ONE.



"SUCH A HIGH-PROFILE EXHIBIT WOULD DO *WONDERS* FOR THE MUSEUM. BUT WITH THE CRIME IN GOTHAM, IT WAS RISKY.

"AFTER MUCH DEBATE, THE FINAL ANSWER WAS NO.



"VICTOR'S AREA OF EXPERTISE IS EGYPTOLOGY. IT'S HIS PASSION.

YOU CALL YOURSELVES SCHOLARS? INTELLECTUALS?

"HE DIDN'T TAKE THE NEWS WELL."

WE HAVE A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY. THE CHANCE TO EDUCATE A CITY. THE CHANCE TO BRING THE PAST TO LIFE.



YOU SELF-IMPORTANT, STUPID, SHORT-SIGHTED, IMBECILES!

VICTOR... PLEASE...

"I HAD ALWAYS LIKED VICTOR. ADMIRER HIS PASSION."



I UNDERSTAND YOUR
FRUSTRATION, VICTOR.
I'M SO SORRY.

THEY'RE JUST
SCARED. SCARED
WHAT IT WOULD MEAN
FOR THE MUSEUM
IF THE WORST
HAPPENED...

COULD
YOU LIVE WITH
YOURSELF IF
THE TUT EXHIBIT
WERE--



THAT'S ENOUGH! I'M TIRED
OF THESE OUTBURSTS,
VICTOR.

LET GO OF ME,
YOU BEAN-COUNTER.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND
WHAT'S AT STAKE.

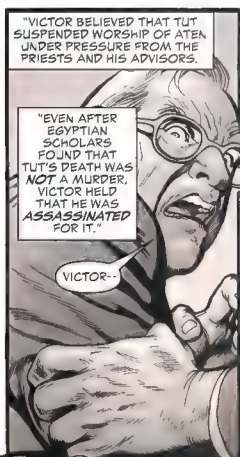
WHAT'S AT
STAKE? YOU MEAN,
YOUR "THEORY"?



"WE COULD HEAR THEM
ARGUING IN THE HALL."

WE CAN'T MAKE
HUGE FINANCIAL
DECISIONS ABOUT THIS
MUSEUM BASED ON YOUR
NEED TO AIR YOUR
ALREADY-DISREDITED--

DISREDITED?
TUT WAS
MURDERED FOR
HIS BELIEFS. THE
WORLD SHOULD
KNOW.



"EVEN AFTER
EGYPTIAN
SCHOLARS
FOUND THAT
TUT'S DEATH WAS
NOT A MURDER,
VICTOR HELD
THAT HE WAS
ASSASSINATED
FOR IT."

VICTOR--

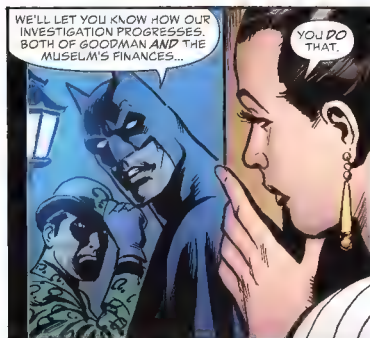
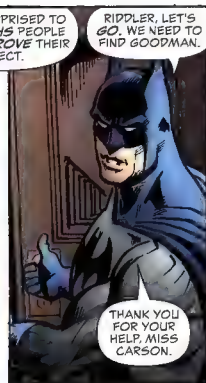


--LET GO!



YOU
TRIED TO
KILL
ME...

JUST
LIKE...IN
EGYPT.





IMPRESSIVE
RIDE, BATMAN.

SO, IF THIS
PARTNERSHIP
THING WORKS
OUT--

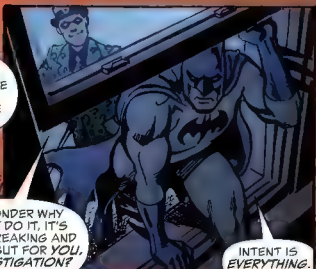


NEVER
MAD.



WE STILL HAVE A FEW
HOURS BEFORE
SUNRISE.

IF WE FIND
ANYTHING IN THIS
HOUSE, WE MIGHT BE
ABLE TO CATCH
GOODMAN BEFORE
HE STRIKES NEXT.



EVER WONDER WHY
WHEN WE DO IT, IT'S
CALLED BREAKING AND
ENTERING, BUT FOR YOU,
IT'S INVESTIGATION?

INTENT IS
EVERYTHING.



UNBELIEVABLE.
SOMEONE'S BEEN
SPENDING THE
MUSEUM'S MONEY ON
MORE THAN JUST
FLAILS AND
FACEMASKS.

CLICK I

TWOOSH





WELCOME, INTERLOPERS, TO MY TOMB.

WHICH WILL NOW BE YOURS.



I KNEW YOU'D COME TO STRIKE AT ME IN MY HOME, AS HAPPENED MILLENNIA AGO WHEN I RULED EGYPT.

AND I ASSUME IT IS YOU, BATMAN, AND THAT YOU'VE BROUGHT YOUR DARK ALLY, RIDDLER.



HE IS WHY I CHOSE RIDDLES WHEN I DISPENSED ATEN'S JUDGMENT ON THE FOOLS WHO KEPT MY TREASURES FROM GOTHAM.

HE IS WHY THEY KEPT MY TREASURES FROM GOTHAM.



MET?



THE TRUSTEES DID NOT BRING MY GLORY... ATEN'S GLORY... TO THIS BLIGHTED, DARKENED CITY, BECAUSE THEY FEARED THEFT.

AND THEY FEARED THEFT BECAUSE EDWARD NIGMA, THE RIDDLER, HAD ROBBED THE MUSEUM TOO MANY TIMES IN THE PAST.

AND HE WAS LOOSE.



BUT
WHEN MY
TIME CAME, HE
WAS LOCKED
AWAY.

SO I HAD
TO LURE HIM
OUT. BRING HIM
HERE.

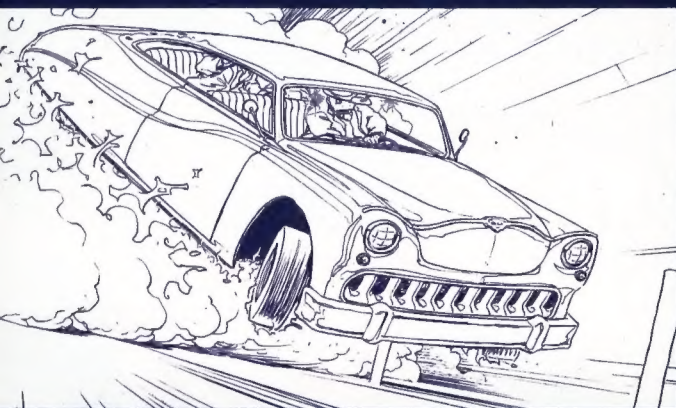
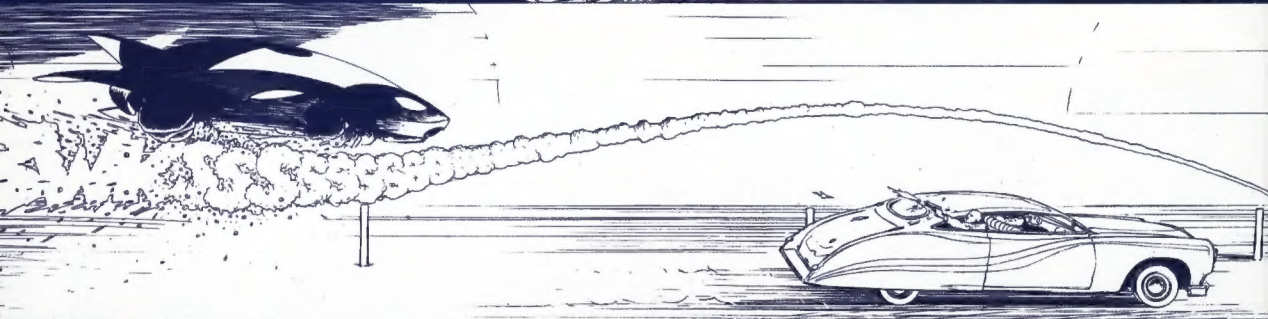


WE HAVE
TO GET OUT
OF HERE.

YOU
THI--



To be
concluded...



We interrupt this week's DC Nation page to showcase some very special art for a very special new comic series.... And for the title and team, as we like to say in every DC Nation page... To be continued.

— DD

NEXT ISSUE...

BATMAN CONFIDENTIAL #28

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